

**Illustrations by Armstrong Sperry  
to Accompany Four Romance Serials  
by Mildred K. Barbour in 1927**

Prepared by Margo Burns, January 1, 2023

These four sets of illustrations by Armstrong Sperry (1897-1976) were works-for-hire for the Metropolitan Newspapers Services in 1927, to accompany four different 72-part romance serials by Mildred K. Barbour (1892-1956):

*Heart's Haven* (sometimes titled *Elinor*)

*Jealous Hearts*

*A Suitor Too Many*

*Sybil, Trapper of Men*

Sperry is credited as the illustrator only in the early installments of *A Suitor Too Many*, but his distinctive style is recognizable in the other three, so they are all attributed to him. Other artists of the time, including J. Norman Lynd, illustrated Barbour's other serials. Sperry worked for Metropolitan illustrating romance and adventure serials for many years and illustrating stories in the romance pulp Munsey's *All-Story Love Stories*. He went on to write and illustrate several dozen books of his own and to illustrate several dozen books for other authors, including Edgar Rice Burroughs, Helen Follet, and Howard Pease. He was a Newbery Honor Book recipient in 1936 for *All Sail Set*, and received the Newbery Medal in 1941 for *Call It Courage*.

Barbour was a prolific writer of serial romances in the 1910s to 1930s. Grosset & Dunlap published novelized editions of *A Suitor Too Many* in 1927 and *Sybil, Trapper of Men* in 1928, neither of which contain Sperry's illustrations. One of her stories, *Borrowed Husbands*, was released as a silent film in 1924, but no copies of it are extant.

Depending on the newspaper, individual serial installments would appear six days a week for twelve weeks, although not every paper was a daily, and different papers ran them on a different schedule, either changing the number of days installments appeared per week or publishing multiple installments on a single day. All four were originally published in newspapers in 1927, but other papers did not include them until 1928 and 1929. As works-for-hire, the copyright extended for 75 years and expired on January 1, 2023, when they entered the Public Domain. (There is at least one more Barbour serial illustrated by Sperry from 1928, which will not be in the Public Domain until January 1, 2024.)

The images were harvested from multiple digitized newspapers to locate the best-quality versions of each illustration. In some papers, an installment might not have included its companion illustration, likely due to space issues in the page layouts, which is why multiple sources were necessary. The images for these four stories were harvested from the following newspapers:



***Heart's Haven***

*Decatur Herald* (Decatur, IL)  
*Tampa Tribune* (Tamps. FL)  
*Leader Post* (Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada)

***Jealous Hearts (Elinor)***

*Paladium Item* (Richmond, IN)  
*Spokane Chronicle* (Spokane, WA)  
*Windsor Star* (Windsor, Ontario, Canada)

***A Suitor Too Many:***

*Pittsburgh Press* (Pittsburgh, PA)  
*Paladium Item* (Richmond, IN)  
*Oakland Tribune* (Oakland, CA)  
*The Pantagraph* (Bloomington, IL)

***Sybil, Trapper of Men***

*Quad City Times* (Davenport, IA)  
*Pittsburgh Press* (Pittsburgh, PA)  
*Springfield Daily News* (Springfield, M))  
*Fort Worth Record-Telegram* (Fort Worth, TX)  
*Shreveport Journal* (Shreveport, LA)

The raw images have been edited for as much clarity as possible and adjusted to the original square proportions. The JPEG files are 4700 x 4700 pixels.



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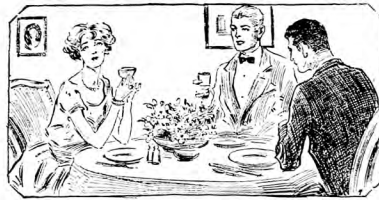
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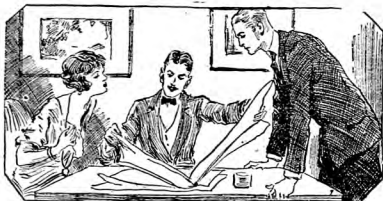
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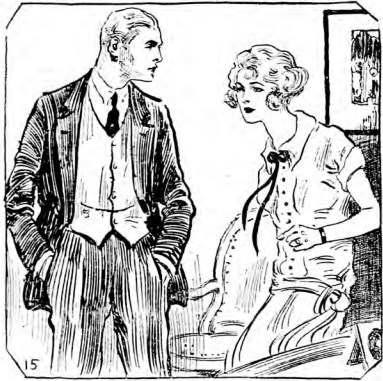
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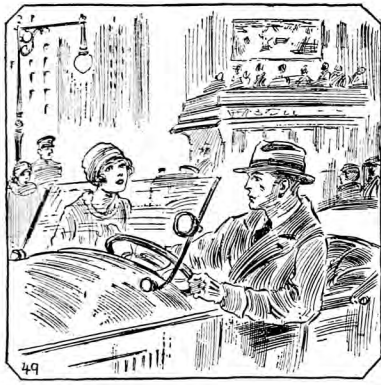


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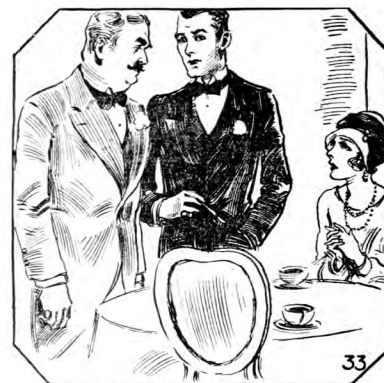
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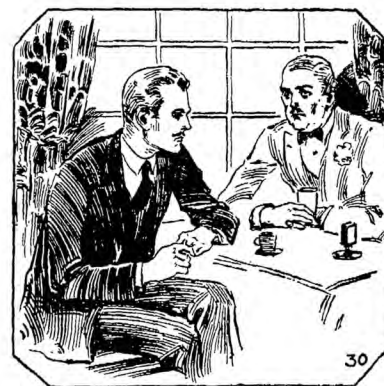
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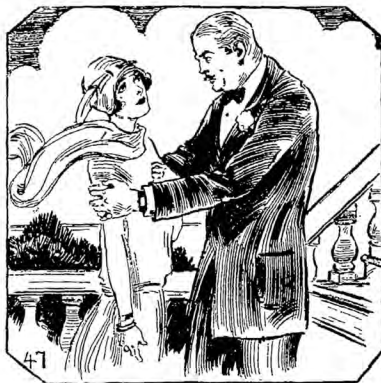
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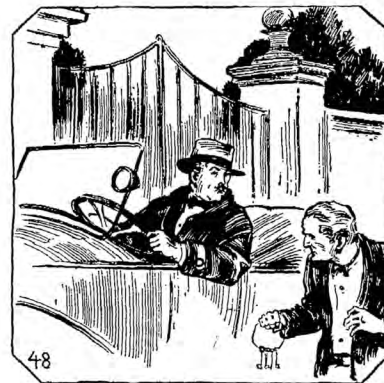
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